



UN 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas

Zhiwei Zhang, Wenxi Zhu, Wannakiat Thubthimsang, Ir. Suharyanto, Lee Moon Suk, Sakanan Plathong, Aparna Pratap, Sazlina Salleh

WESTPAC Group of Experts

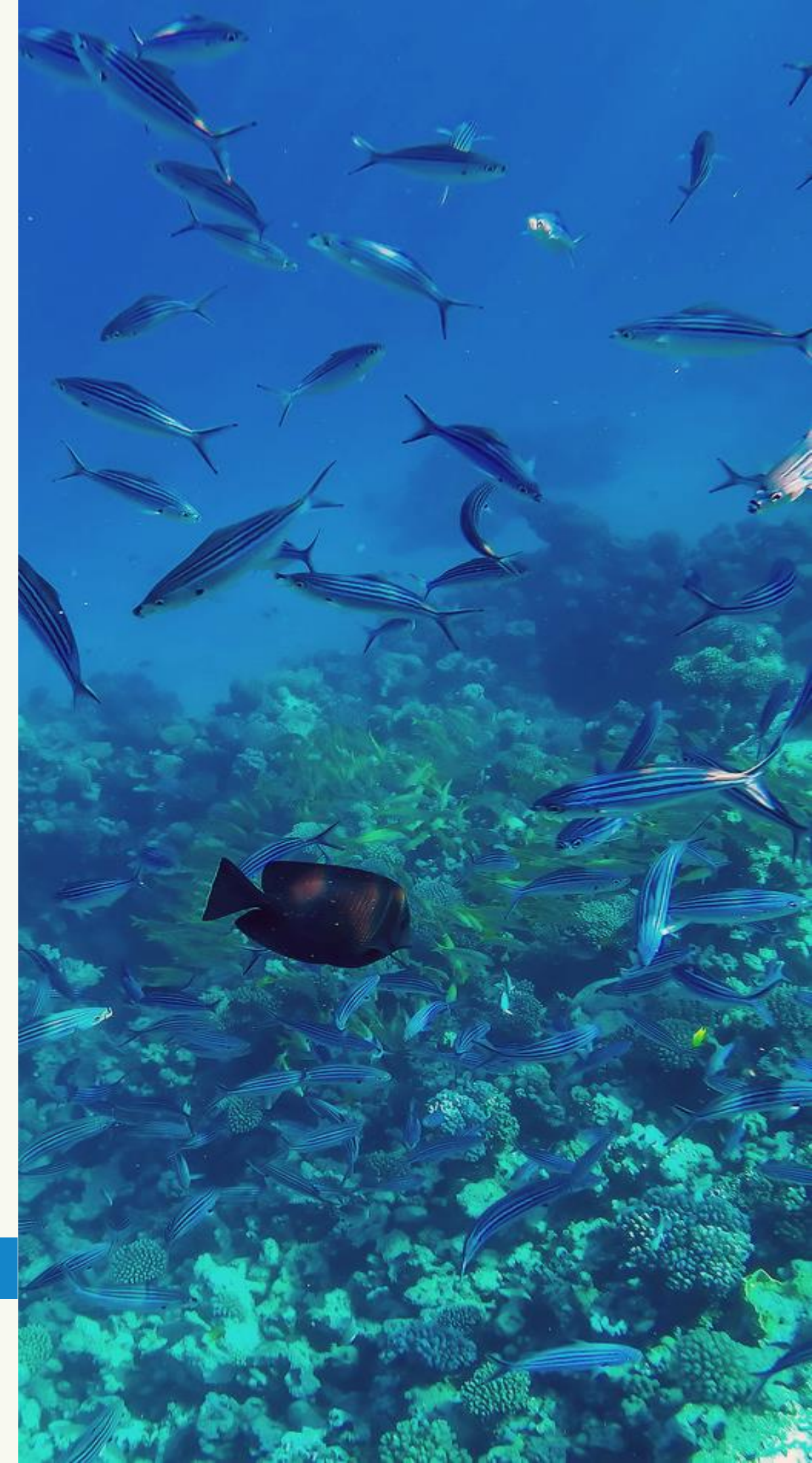
First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China
IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, IOC/UNESCO

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Summary Outline

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1. Justification

IOC-UNESCO MSP definition:

“The public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process.”

Natural Resources



Human Impacts



The Western Pacific region is home to distinctive marine and coastal ecosystems that support extraordinarily rich natural resources. Yet the area is under escalating pressures from overexploitation, natural hazards and climate change, and these threats continue to intensify.



- ❑ **Proposal:** Responding to countries' needs, WESTPAC initiated the UN Decade Action proposal entitled *“Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific”* at its 13th Intergovernmental Session in April 2021;
- ❑ **Incubator:** Solutions to the conflicts of ocean uses: Accelerate marine spatial planning in the Western Pacific.
- ❑ **Endorsement:** The proposal was endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Project (**UN21**) in April 2022.

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2. Project Objectives



Within the Western Pacific, UN21 seeks to support Member States in adopting an ecosystem-based approach to strengthen ocean resource management, advance a sustainable blue economy, and contribute to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1

Action Framework

Formulate a Regional Roadmap/Action Framework for MSP in the Western Pacific.

2

Technical Support

Develop a technical guide and toolkit for MSP, and provide public products of ocean governance, in alignment with the Ocean Decade and sustainable development goals.

3

Demonstration

Establish demonstration sites for marine spatial planning formulation across the region.

4

Capacity Building

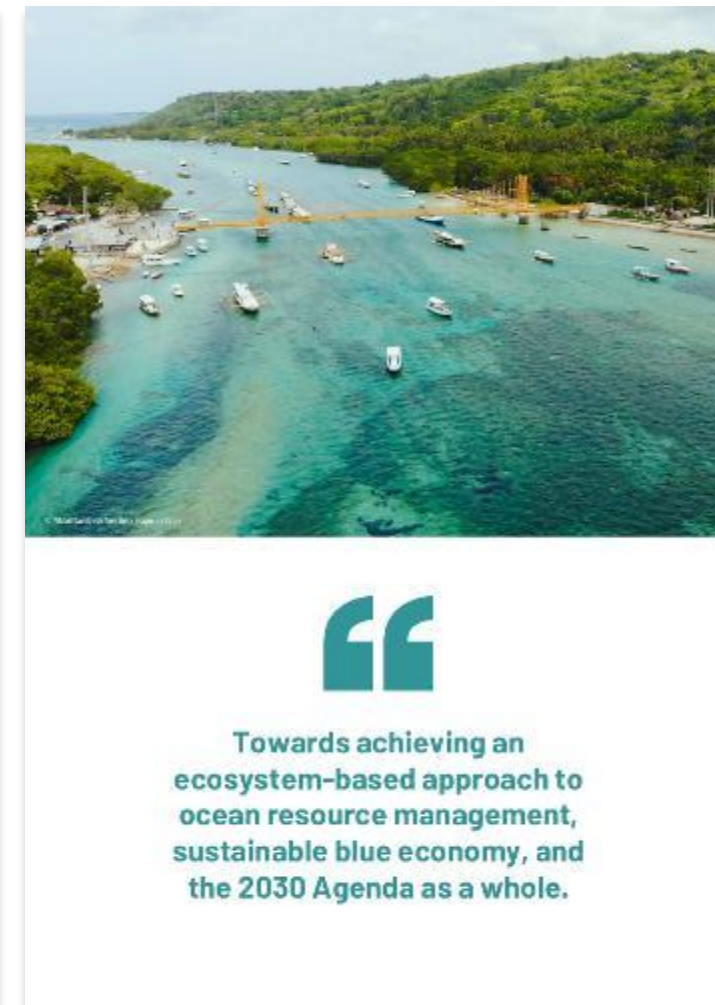
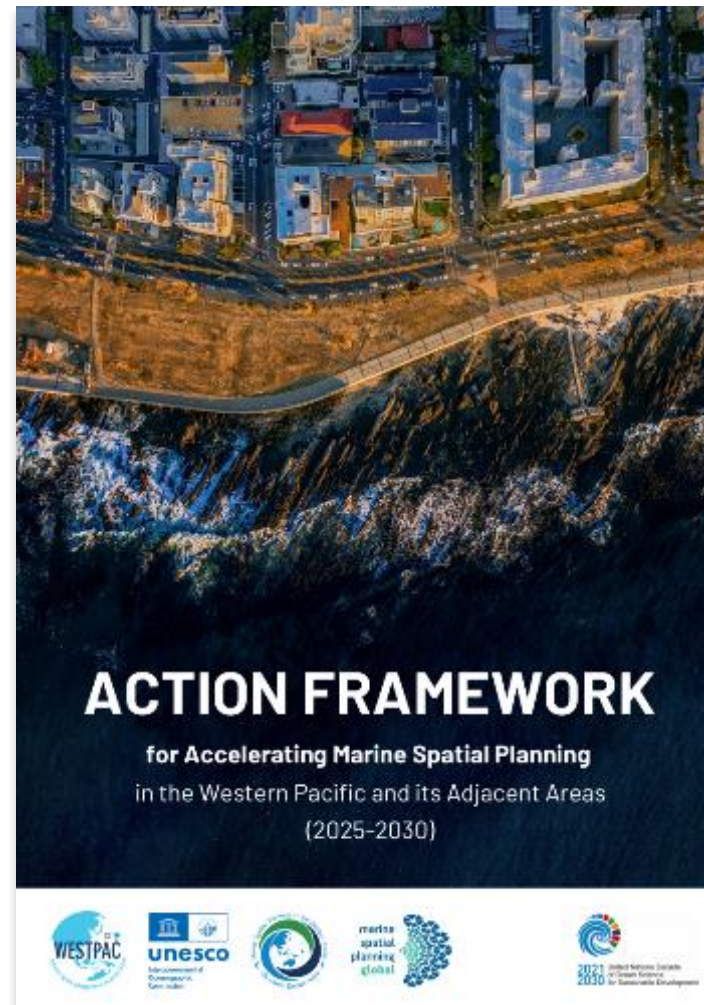
Improve MSP capacities of Western Pacific countries through tailored capacity building activities.

3. Major Activities and Outputs



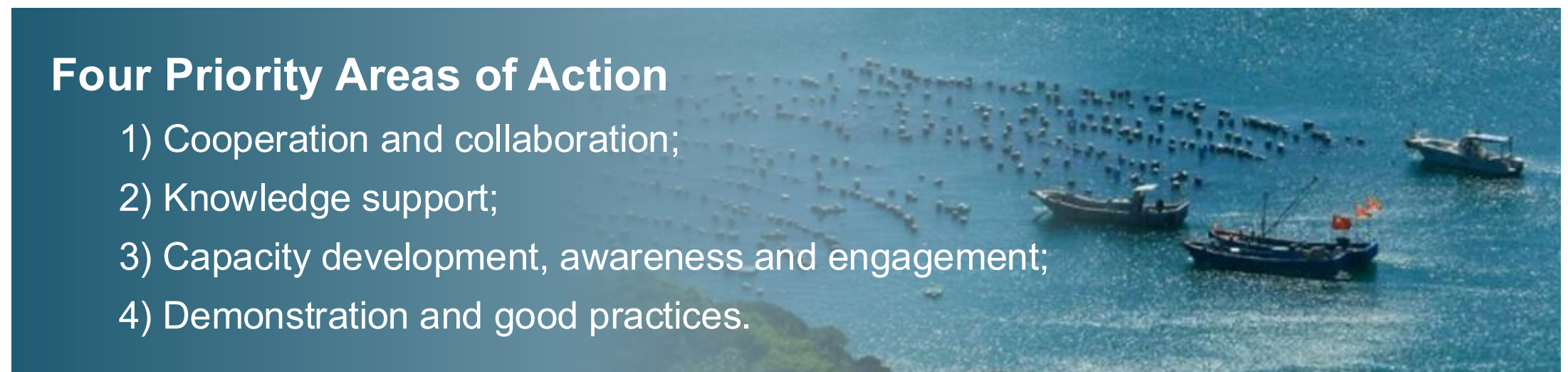
□ Action Framework

- In close collaboration with regional institutions and researchers, the project developed the **Action Framework for Accelerating Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas (2025–2030)**.
- Adopted at the **15th WESTPAC Intergovernmental Session** in March 2025, the Action Framework guides coordinated regional efforts to advance MSP.



Four Priority Areas of Action

- 1) Cooperation and collaboration;
- 2) Knowledge support;
- 3) Capacity development, awareness and engagement;
- 4) Demonstration and good practices.



3. Major Activities and Outputs



□ Action Framework

Action Framework for Accelerating MSP in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas (2025–2030)



Action 1

Strengthen the role of the open-ended Group of Experts



Action 2

Convene the Regional MSP Forum regularly



Action 3

Promote knowledge development, sharing and transfer



Action 4

Co-develop MSP Toolkit tailored to the region's needs



Action 5

Enhance Institutional & professional capacity building



Action 6

Engage stakeholders & Raise awareness



Action 7

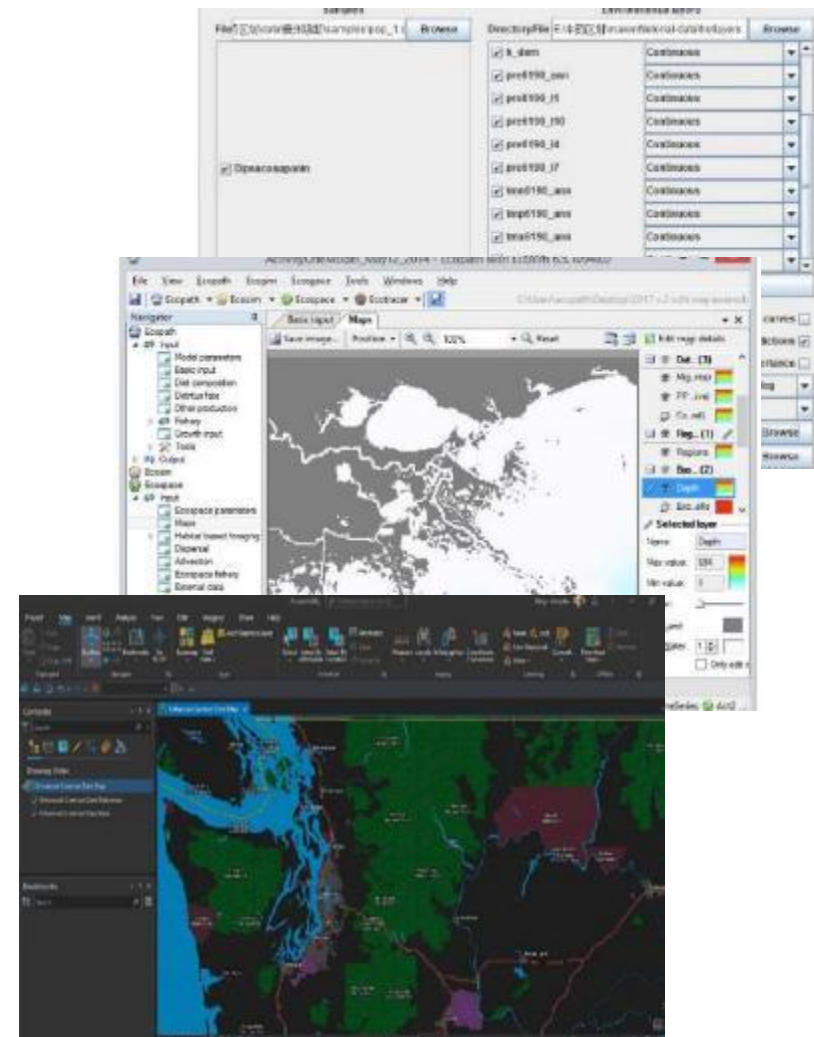
Establish demonstration sites and make twinning arrangement

3. Major Activities and Outputs

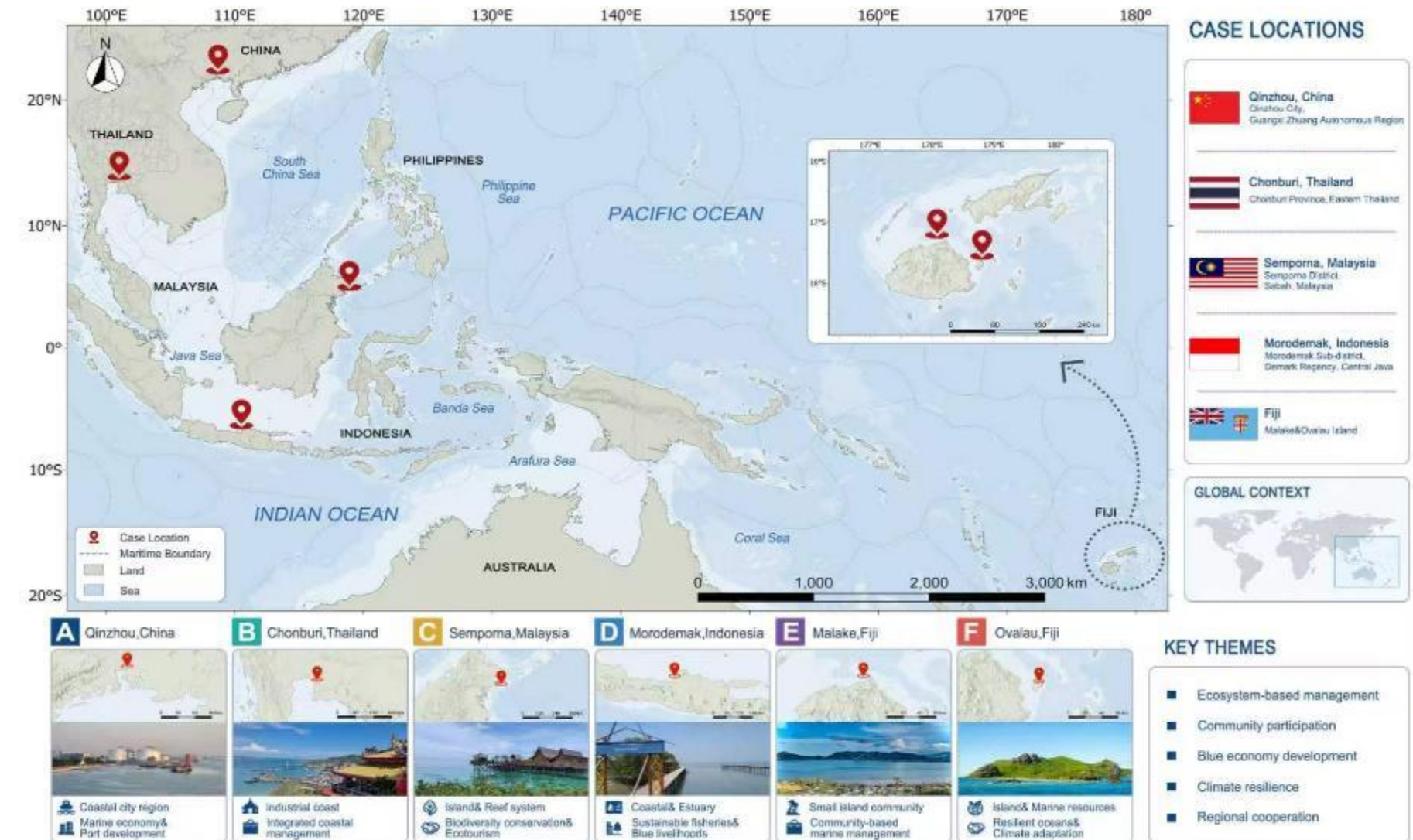


Technical Support

Regional MSP Data and Toolkit (Draft)



MSP Best Practices in the Western Pacific (Draft)



- Integrating MSP data processing and six families of MSP tools with regionally adapted workflows, the MSP Data and Toolkit supports the tailored data-to-decision solutions.
- The Toolkit is not simply a collection of tools, but a practical pathway from data and knowledge to MSP decisions.

- Based on a regional analysis of MSP maturity, we compiled six cases studies, offering transferable experience and references for MSP practice across the region.
- The demonstration sites serve not only as local pilots, but also as regional learning laboratories for sharing methods and lessons across countries.

3. Major Activities and Outputs



□ Demonstration Sites

The project established an MSP demonstration network comprising six sites across five countries: [Qinzhou, China](#); [Chonburi, Thailand](#); [Jeollanam-do, Republic of Korea](#); [Kedungsepur and Muara Demak, Indonesia](#); and [Koh Rong Marine National Park, Cambodia](#).

Tools provide the means; best practices provide the evidence; demonstration sites provide the application.



□ Chonburi Stakeholder Engagement



□ Indonesia Field survey



□ Qinzhou Stakeholder Engagement



□ Jeollanam-do Field Survey



3. Major Activities and Outputs

Capacity Building



1st WESTPAC MSP Workshop 2023.11, Qingdao



Propelling MSP in Guangxi, China: A Convergence of Theory and Practice (22–23 May 2024)



2nd WESTPAC MSP Workshop 2025.10, Chonburi



Regional Training Workshop 20-22 July 2026, Bangkok, Thailand
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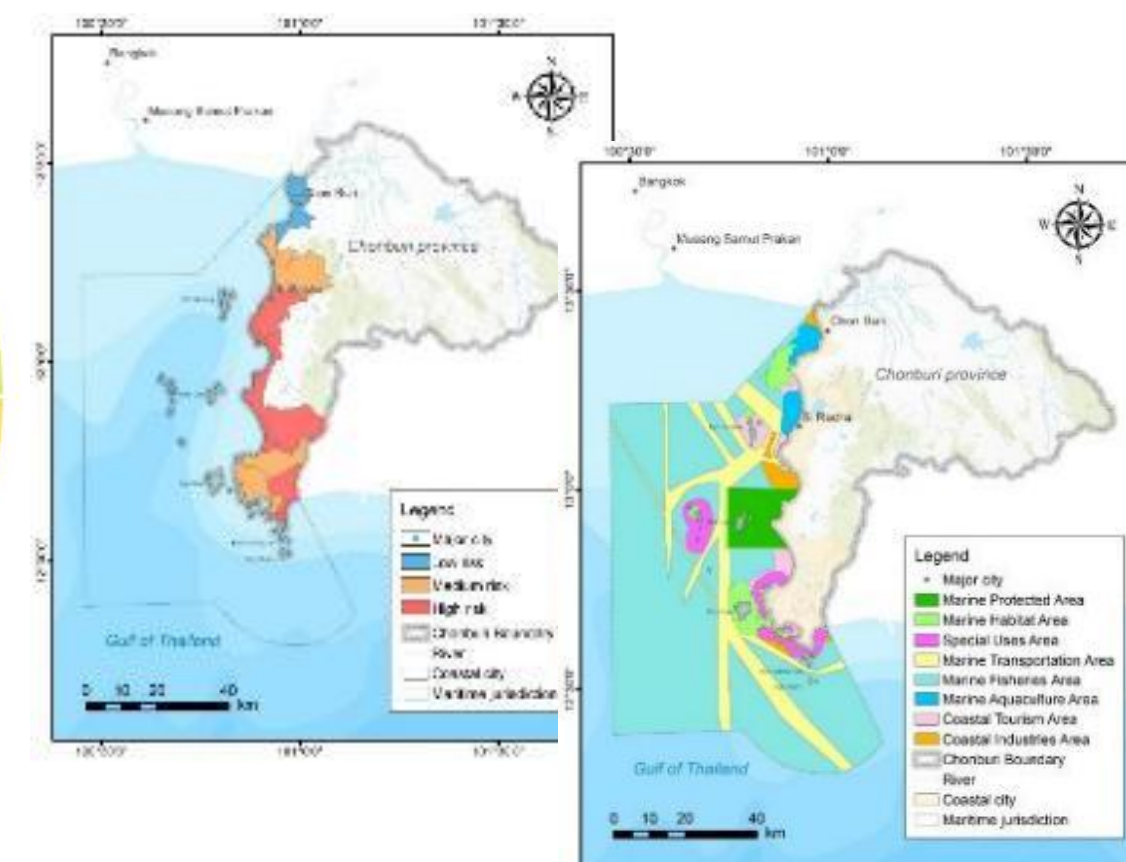
3. Major Activities and Outputs



UN21 is building a regional platform that connects knowledge, tools, people and demonstration sites to accelerate practical MSP implementation across the Western Pacific.



- 13** Experts from 8 countries of the regional GOE
- 1** Support Office
- 3** Regional mspforum and workshops
- 6** Demonstration sites in 5 countries
- 7** National trainings on MSP
- 600+** Stakeholders involved in UN 21 activities



Regional MSP Forum

Establishment of the Regional Group of Experts

1st WESTPAC MSP Expert Workshop

Unveiling of the Chonburi Demonstration Site

Field Visit to the Demonstration Site in Indonesia

Training at the Qinzhou Demonstration Site, China

Field Trip in Jeollanam-do Demonstration Site

Approval of the MSP Action Framework

2nd WESTPAC MSP Expert Workshop

MSP Field Survey in Phang Nga Bay

Workshop focus on MSP and coastal Management

12/2022

04/2023

11/2023

12/2023

04/2024

05/2024

08/2024

03/2025

10/2025

08/2026

09/2026

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4. Anticipated activities and outputs



01 Accelerate Action Framework Implementation

Advance regional expert group activities and forums; promote MSP technology sharing and application; develop MSP data and toolkit; and strengthen quantitative approaches to planning.

Outputs: 1 Regional MSP Data and Toolkit; 1 MSP Best Practices...

02 Advance Demonstration Site Development

Conduct field surveys and data collection at priority demonstration sites (e.g. Phang Nga Bay in Thailand)

Outputs: ≥1 MSP study report completed; ≥1 MSP demonstration sites established...

03 Continue Capacity Building

Deliver MSP data and toolkit trainings, including online and in-person trainings courses (data processing; quantitative analysis covering InVEST, Marxan and CIA)

Outputs: ≥2 MSP training course...

04 Strengthen the Regional MSP Mechanism

Strengthen regional cooperation mechanism through website and Group of Experts (GoE)

Outputs: Renewal of GoE membership; Update of the UN21 Project Website...

5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029



Building on the achievements of 2025–2027, the 2028–2029 workplan focuses on scaling up practical application, capacity development and regional learning.

No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1-1st H	Y1-2nd H	Y2-1st H	Y2-2nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 4 — SCIENTIFICALLY FOUNDED SERVICES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY									
Expected Result 4.2 (Sub-obj. 4.3): Knowledge-based sustainable ocean planning and management tools developed and applied									
4.2.1	Accelerating Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas. (a) Deliver MSP data and toolkit training courses. (b) Conduct field surveys and data collection at priority demonstration sites . (c) Pilot an MSP Master’s scholarship programme targeting early-career researchers. (d) Organize regional workshops to share pilot outcomes.	• Delivery of 4 MSP data and toolkit training sessions (2 online, 2 in-person) for regional MSP practitioners; • Field surveys and data collection completed at 2 priority demonstration sites (Malaysia and Thailand); • Piloting of an MSP Master’s scholarship programme supporting ≥4 early-career researchers from Western Pacific Member States; • Organization of 2 regional workshops for MSP practitioners to share pilot outcomes.	•	•	•	•	25,000	80,000	IOC/WESTPAC (coordination); MSP Group of Experts (technical support); FIO, DMCR, KKP, MIMA (competent authorities); SwAM (Sweden) and MSPglobal (method support)

6. Strategic recommendations for future development



Scale up regional MSP cooperation

- Further strengthen long-term coordination among WESTPAC Member States, competent authorities, research institutions and practitioners to systematically advance standardized, ecosystem-based MSP across the region, and sustain the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade outcomes.

Strengthen the regional MSP mechanism and knowledge system

- Continue operating the regional MSP coordination mechanism, regularly update project knowledge products including the technical guide and toolkit, best practices, and sustain open access to MSP data and resources to support consistent regional ocean governance.

Expand capacity building and youth empowerment

- Scale up regional training workshops, field demonstration practices, and MSP scholarship programmes to cultivate a new generation of early-career researchers and practitioners, enabling inclusive and sustainable MSP progress across diverse Western Pacific countries.



Thank You !

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